

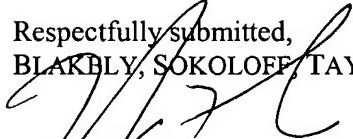
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Paragraphs 8 and 27 of the specification have been amended to correct the errors noted in the Office Action, but no new matter has been added by these corrections. Claims 1-3 have been cancelled, but new claims 4 and 5 have been added. New claim 4 recites subject matter formerly found in claim 3 and its parent claims, and is supported by the specification as originally filed (see, e.g., Fig. 3). New claim 5 is likewise supported by the specification as originally filed (see, e.g., Fig. 3 and paragraphs 19 and 25). Hence, no new matter is added by any of these amendments.

The objections to claims 1-3 are moot in light of the present amendments. Claims 4 and 5 incorporate the suggested corrections described in the Office Action. Furthermore, the phrase "connected with the stator blade" has been omitted from claim 4 inasmuch as it is not necessary to patentably define the present invention over the prior art. Claim 4 also incorporates the suggestion in the Office Action to define the grooves as being perpendicular to the straight-line sections of the rotor hole. The "front-end" of the grooves is clearly defined in new claim 4. Hence, the rejections under 35 USC 112, paragraph 2 are likewise moot.

The Office Action acknowledged the patentability (except for formalities) of former claim 3 inasmuch as the cited prior art (Laesser et al. US 4,361,790) failed to teach or suggest a stepper motor having a rotor hole with a vertical cross section approximating a circle except for straight-line sections which are disposed about the rotor hole in positions proximate to front-end locations of narrow grooves in the stator blade. Such features are positively recited in new claim 4, which is therefore believed to be patentable over the cited art. Claim 5 depends from claim 4 and is therefore likewise patentable over Laesser.

If there are any additional fees due in connection with this amendment, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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